

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COMUS KOREA

COMUS JAPAN

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: MARR, MASS, KS, JA

SUBJECT: HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

REF: A. TOKYO 13645; B. SEOUL 7587

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE REPORTED OUT DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS BILL (H.R. 9861) LATE SEPTEMBER 25. EXPECT TO HAVE FULL TEXT OF FINAL REPORT EARLY NEXT WEEK. MEANWHILE, FOLLOWING EXTRACTS FROM FINAL DRAFT OF COMMITTEE REPORT (AS PROVIDED BY DOD) MAY BE OF USE TO YOU.

2. JAPANESE BASES:

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BEGIN QUOTE: SINCE US FORCES HELPING TO PROTECT THE ARMISTICE IN KOREA ARE ALSO CONTRIBUTING TO THE SECURITY OF JAPAN, THERE CAN BE NO QUESTION AS TO THE AVAILABILITY OF US BASES IN JAPAN TO SUPPORT US OPERATIONS IN THE EVENT THAT IT AGAIN BECOMES NECESSARY TO DEAL MILITARILY WITH AGGRESSION FROM THE NORTH. JAPANESE BASES MUST SERVE AS A SUPPLY/STAGING AREA FOR US ACTIONS IN SUPPORT OF SOUTH KOREA WHETHER OR NOT US GROUND FORCES ARE EMPLOYED. END QUOTE.

3. US FORCES KOREA:

BEGIN QUOTE A: IN VIEW OF UNCERTAIN CONDITIONS PREVAILING AT THIS TIME, THE COMMITTEE WILL NOT PRESS FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF A BRIGADE OF THE 2D INFANTRY DIVISION FROM KOREA IN FISCAL YEAR 1976. NEVERTHELESS, PLANS SHOULD BE MADE FOR TRIMMING THE ENTIRE US MILITARY PRESENCE IN KOREA TO A FORCE OF APPROXIMATELY 20,000 MEN BY FISCAL YEAR 1978 ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE SITUATION WILL HAVE STABILIZED APPRECIABLY BY THAT TIME AND OUR MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS WILL HAVE IMPROVED THE DEFENSIVE POSTURE OF ROK GROUND AND AIR FORCES. END QUOTE A.

BEGIN QUOTE B: THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT SHOULD GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO "BEEFING" UP AIR FORCE DEPLOYMENT IN EXCHANGE FOR FORWARD BASED ARMY UNITS. THIS WILL GREATLY INCREASE US OPTIONS AND FLEXIBILITY IN KOREA. END QUOTE B.

DECLASSIFY UPON RECEIPT. KISSINGER

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